

GRAND RAPIDS HERALD

TELEPHONE NUMBERS.

Business Office. 331

Editorial Rooms. 139

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

DAILY and SUNDAY, One Year. \$6.00

DAILY and SUNDAY, Three Months. 1.50

SUNDAY, One Year. 2.00

WEEKLY, One Year. 1.00

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OUR NEWS SERVICE.

Without flare of trumpet or untimely felicitation *The Herald* has steadily improved in appearance and in the quality of its news until it is ready to say this morning that it is the best newspaper in the true sense of the term published in Grand Rapids. For some years it has been handicapped in its news service by obstacles quite insurmountable, but these have now been removed and today *THE HERALD* is in receipt of the full and complete news report of the United Press, a report that is admittedly superior to all and every other in point of conciseness, comprehensiveness and reliability. With this report *THE HERALD* is placed on a footing identical with that of the Chicago Herald, New York Sun and other great papers receiving the United Press reports. The report is received into *THE HERALD* office over a special wire extending from this city to Fort Wayne, Indiana, a distance of 140 miles, where the trunk or main wires of the United Press deliver the full report for our exclusive use in western Michigan. This wire is absolutely owned and controlled by *THE HERALD* and is devoted exclusively to its service. It is the first, longest, most expensive, and only special wire owned by an individual paper and devoted to its exclusive use, in the world. It was put in at great expense, but the enterprise and determination of *THE HERALD* made it imperative. Henceforth the paper will receive and print the latest news of the world, and in this respect, as in every other respect, it invites comparison with any paper published in the state. In the local field it has long been recognized as superior to its more pretentious neighbors. Hereafter the same superiority will be maintained and, if possible, marked improvement will be made. The remarks, both general and local, will be given careful attention. The news of Michigan, rather than neighborhood gossip, will form one of the notable features, which will be extended and enlarged to take in every town in the state. Nationally the paper will continue independently republican and its opinions will be characterized by the same fearless and outspoken championship of the rights that has marked its management for years.

PROFITLY CONFIRMED.

Mayor Stuart's second list of appointments met with prompt confirmation by the council last evening. The selection for member of the board of health is a peculiarly fit one, for Dr. E. is recognized as a careful, painstaking and conscientious physician, and these qualities will enable him to render able services on the board. The other appointments will commend themselves as being worthy. In the election of Alderman Ball to be president of the council that body elevated a man splendidly equipped to preside over its deliberations in the absence of the mayor. The position is one requiring the exercise of calm judgment and an unprejudiced mind. Mr. Ball has had valuable experience as an alderman, has a wide grasp of practical business affairs and will make in every respect a fair, impartial and firm presiding officer. It is a matter for congratulation that the majority of the council has agreed upon a policy of harmony and united action, and that filibustering and obstruction have been abandoned by the minority. The work of the new administration will be severe enough without being hampered by needless divisions in the council.

NEW POSSIBILITIES.

Colonel Duffield is recognized as the first lieutenant of General Alger in the latter's skirmish for the presidency. It is represented that there is a considerable opposition to President Harrison and that this opposition is crystallizing for the purpose of introducing an available man other than Blaine to stand as a leader for the present disorganized anti-Harrison men. Colonel Duffield went to Washington a few days ago presumably to gather data upon which to start the fight against the sterner law, but the democratic papers in this only a subterfuge and openly declare that he went there to confer with eminent politicians. The declaration seems to be warranted. His face, for either by accident or arrangement a large number of notable men met in Washington Saturday night and held a conference. Monday Colonel

Duffield told an interviewer that the breach between Senator Sherman and General Alger had been healed, and that Platt had spoken very kindly of both. Mr. Platt is an astute politician and stands for the clearer and better principles of party politics. He is a tower of strength in managing convention preliminaries, and if Colonel Duffield has reached an understanding with the prominent men opposed to President Harrison, then General Alger will become a considerable factor in future calculations. It seems, however, that if Mr. Blaine shall be passed on account of impaired health that no combination can be formed to prevent the nomination of President Harrison. It is possible nevertheless, and in this view the probable favorites stand in order of preference: Sherman, Alger, McKinley, Reed, Rusk and Allison.

WRECK OF A LIFE.

Broken in health and beauty the 15-year-old girl of proud parents is on her way from Chicago back to her home in New York state, which she left after stealing \$5000 to accompany two men, one of whom exercised what is described as a hypnotic influence over her to her almost irretrievable disgrace. The unhappy parents were distracted over her disappearance and heart-broken over her ruin. She will return to her home a physical wreck and a social outcast. The threshold to her life is darkened and her future is one of constant remorse. It is not probable that like a wayward child she rushed impetuously to her ruin, but the unholy lure of two lascivious adventurers caught her innocent eyes, she was charmed, and under the hateful spell she robbed her parents and was lured on and into the maelstrom of helpless servility to the monsters. At Detroit a disagreement arose over the respective rights of her two abductors, whereupon one took all the money and the other took the girl and went to Chicago. Cruelty and neglect soon robbed the roses from her youthful cheeks, and not until the officers discovered her wretched condition did a ray of hope illumine her dark and cheerless prospect. The story is a pathetic one and ought to have a lasting impression on the minds of all young girls.

DID THAT ALSO DODGE?

In expressing greater admiration for the St. Louis than for the Lansing platform of its party, the committee on resolutions in the people's party county convention last night recognized the superior right of a national to a state convention to establish party principles. In eliminating the liquor plank the attitude of the delegates in the convention was established. Whether the majority is opposed to the liquor plank as adopted at Lansing is not clearly indicated by the vote, but it is fair to assume that the prohibition element was in control. It matters little, however, to the members of the party at large, for they will continue to hold and cherish their individual views on the whiskey question just the same as if the incident had not arisen. Inasmuch as no outspoken action was taken, it is not unfair to charge that the convention adulterated the example of the democrats on the silver question in state convention, and dodged the issue. Political pluck is a heroic quality so rarely exhibited that the delegates may be excused if they purposely refused to either put their noses to the liquor grindstone or to take them off.

GRAND RIVER.

Michigan fares extremely well in the rivers and harbors appropriations bill passed by the house, but in the generous allotment the Grand river is not included. This omission is disappointing, for it will delay the improvement of the river for several months if not a year or two. If the senate shall affirm a rider carrying an appropriation and it is finally accepted, it will be nearly two months if not longer before the money will be available. When it is available the preliminary work will consume all the time there is left before cold weather intervenes, so it is probable that the dredges will not disturb the shallow obstructions nor scrape out the shallow bottom of the river this year. If a suitable and adequate appropriation be made the engineers will be in readiness at the opening of next spring to plough a deep furrow through from this city to the lake. In the meantime the staunch and trim little steamer built by the board of trade subscribers will navigate the Grand and serve to indicate the possibilities of a deeper channel.

One of these peculiarly distressing errors which are apt to happen to any newspaper dropped into The Democrat yesterday morning, and was later copied by the evening papers, announcing the death of Almon, who is lying very ill in that city. The misleading report was copied from a Chicago paper which said he could not live and it is presumed that it was taken for granted by our neighbor that death intervened before morning. Reference is made to it here at the request of friends of the sick man who are deeply pained that the error should have been made and especially that it should have been repeated by the evening papers without an attempt to verify it.

Six of the largest packing houses in Chicago have been consolidated through the influence of British capital. The trust is an immense one, and one in which the public is vitally interested. What the effect of the consolidation may be cannot be determined. If the new company is organized for the purpose of active competition with the Chicago Packing and Provision company, the public may reap some

benefit from it. If it operates in the usual manner of trusts, that portion of the American public who are not vegetarians will furnish the dividends for the new corporation.

NOTWITHSTANDING the vehement claims of the democrats that they would greatly reduce the amount appropriated for the support and maintenance of the general government by the "million-dollar" congress, it is becoming painfully evident that they will eclipse the record and make a name for the present house of a "million-dollar-and-one-cent" house.

Nothing can be more jarring to the nerves of the prisoner who appears before Judge Burlingame than to hear the court say, "The court will exercise leniency in your case, sir," and then catch a sentence which, if not quite as much as the law allows, is so near it that the unhappy recipient is not able to grasp the idea of leniency as it exists in his honor's mind.

Dr. VAUGHAN, successor to Cardinal Manning as the archbishop of Westminster, begins his career by giving offense to the workingmen because he is not in thought and life the counter-part of his pious and illustrious predecessor. There are few men indeed who can fill the place in the hearts of the workingmen once occupied by the lamented cardinal.

HUMAN ingenuity can never curb the impetuous current of swollen streams, and until clouds shall dry their weeping eyes and dew refuse to fall, death and destruction will continue to lurk in angry waters, repeating the horrors of Johnstown and duplicating the recent sufferings of the flooded Spaniards.

There can be no doubt but that the discussions conducted by the farmers are prolific in good. Yesterday's debate on the improvement of roads, while scintillating and disreputable, developed advanced ideas entertained by some, which if put into practice would yield substantial results.

The later historians have declared that Columbus was a fenish pirate and buccaneer and that he was avaricious, cruel and revengeful. Possibly he was; but it won't hurt him any in Chicago and the World's Fair will proceed as usual.

Waukegan a Methodist conference discusses anything it discusses it for keeps. The moderator at the Omaha convention has already broken two gavel trying to preserve order.

A GERMAN merchant has been heavily fined for using a quotation from the Bible as an advertisement. Col. Elliot F. Shepard should take notice.

HASSEN BEN ALI and suite greeted the president yesterday with profound salutations. There are many Americans who will be willing to do likewise when he is again elected to the office.

WAUKESHA citizens are evidently determined that if Chicago drinks Waukegan water it will take it on the side in the old fashioned way.

CONNECTICUT democrats have expressed a wish to have Grover nominated. By the way, what cabinet officer hailed from the Nutmeg state?

CLEVELAND's chances for renomination grow steadily brighter with the increase of the New York Sun's opposition.

AMUSEMENTS.

Next Monday night the eccentric comedian, Ezra Kendall, will appear at Powers' in "A Pair of Kids," a comedy which has become familiar to many local theatergoers by previous representations.

"The Blarney Stone" will fill out the work at Redmond's. A new farce comedy called "A Social Season" will follow on Sunday night.

Already society folk are anticipating the engagement of The Kendalls at Powers' on the 19th. It will be quite the fad to see them, for they are English, you know.

The bill of novelties now running at Smith's will be repeated in full at the matinee today.

THEY COMPROMISED.

The Y. M. C. A. and their Contractors Come to an Understanding.

S. S. Berman of Chicago, the architect of the new Y. M. C. A. building, was in the city yesterday and held a conference with the building committee and the contractors. Certain concessions were made by both sides and the understanding growing out of the quality of finishing brick used was settled to the satisfaction of both parties.

At the regular monthly meeting of the board of directors held last night twenty-one new members were admitted to active membership. Permission was granted Secretary Ward to attend the national meeting of Y. M. C. A. secretaries to be held in Providence, May, 25 to 31.

General Critchison will address the 4 o'clock meeting next Sunday.

Self-Denial Week.

This is self-denial week at the Salvation Army, and it will be observed by several special meetings. Wednesday night Captain McWaters, accompanied by Lieutenant Greenwell, will lead a meeting at No. 3 Pearl street. Thursday night there will be a temperance meeting, at which Mrs. Aron will show some of her most beautiful views on temperance and the life of Christ. Tuesday night, the 17th, a grand meeting will be conducted by Adjutant Egner, when the friends will hand in their self-denial offerings.

Painters' Stock Company.

The Brotherhood of Painters will meet at 4 o'clock this afternoon for the purpose of organizing a stock company, which will carry on a general paint, wall paper and decorating business. This action results from frequent requests from those desiring work done that the painters and decorators who are maintaining the strike would go to work for them individually. The idea in forming this stock company is to keep the men together and insure concentrated action.

BALL IS THE MAN

He is Elected President on the New Council

MAYOR STUART'S SELECTIONS

They are All Confirmed Without Opposition—The Water Question Again Bobs Up and Goes by Default.

A. O. BALL, president of the council. J. Orton Edie, member of the board of health.

Promptitude is a marked attribute of the new council, and it was just 7:30 o'clock when Mayor Stuart called the full board of aldermen to order. The usual list of petitions was read and referred to the various committees. L. W. Wolcott, administrator of the estate of H. S. Smith, deceased, offered to sell to the city for a market site lot 451 of Kent plat at the southeast corner of Kent and Newberry streets for \$1900. Referred to special market committee.

Nelson, Matter & Co., by James G. McBride, secretary, offered to sell to the city for market purposes lots 391, 399, 404, 412, 417, 425, 430, 438 and 443, Kent plat, for \$13,500. Referred to special market committee.

The bonds of L. S. Stevens, deputy clerk of the police court, scavenger, highway commissioners and constables were approved.

Acceptances of office from new officials were received and filed.

Comptroller's Report.

The report of the comptroller is as follows:

To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Grand Rapids:

I hereby respectfully report a description of each and every parcel of land on which the city now holds a tax deed, also giving the amount of each assessment, and the date at which each claim was due in by the city at market value. The said claim covers a parcel of twenty-seven years and represents a total of \$29,282.52. For the period of twenty years prior to 1875, the amount standing on is:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| For the year 1875 it is. | \$14,428.49 |
| For the year 1876 it is. | 455.38 |
| For the year 1877 it is. | 450.08 |
| For the year 1878 it is. | 833.77 |
| For the year 1879 it is. | 4,008.25 |
| For the year 1880 it is. | 1,510.32 |
| For the year 1881 it is. | 5,280.55 |
| For first quarter of 1881 it is. | 1,278.50 |
| Total. | \$29,282.52 |

Rapidity of Accumulation.

The figures show that during the past six and one-quarter years the said claims have accumulated to the amount of \$14,856.63, a sum \$429 in excess of the amount outstanding for the twenty years prior thereto. The rapid accumulation of these claims and the present condition of the general fund, which that money belongs, seems to call for a remedy. On some of the said claims the city can realize no return, as the lands have since become street property and the city now holds the same as such. I recommend that they be cancelled and dropped from the record. A few of said descriptions are on a school house property, and on property belonging to the general government. There is but faint hope to realize a return on them; the balance are good and valuable claims. I recommend that such claims be taken as will cause just and prompt settlement through the proper channels.

Respectfully submitted.

J. T. VANDENBERG, Comptroller.

Then follows 529 distinct descriptions of lands.

The comptroller's report was referred to the committee on ways and means and the city attorney.

A communication from the board of public works, recommending that the contract for furnishing one-half mile of iron pipe at \$25 per ton, be awarded to the Lehigh Valley foundry of Cleveland, O., was read and the matter was referred to the mayor, who was authorized to close the contract.

The petition of the Tower Clothing company to erect a water fountain was granted.

Hills' Wish to Take Risks.

City Treasurer Sarrick informed the council that for the protection of himself and his bondsmen he should be unable to cash orders on funds very nearly or quite exhausted and asked that the council take prompt action in the matter.

The Grand Rapids board of trade by its secretary announced that it had under consideration the matter of the best means of disposing of the city's sewage and recommended that an open, defined, narrow channel be constructed in the center of Grand river, claiming that it would be more economical and efficient than the contemplated lateral, and that such improvement was a public necessity as a sanitary measure, and asked that the matter be referred to the city engineer for estimate of cost. Accepted and filed.

Mayor Stuart's Appointments.

Mayor Stuart submitted the following appointments: Hiram T. Kniffen to be highway commissioner in the First district vice Lawrence Grouley; confirmed by a vote of 13 yeas, 10 nays. James Farnsworth to be highway commissioner in the Third district vice William Fitzpatrick; confirmed by a vote of 13 yeas, 10 nays. John Dykema to be city poundmaster for the term of one year vice John Kline; confirmed by a vote of 13 yeas, 8 nays. J. Orton Edie to be member of the board of health vice E. Emmett Welsh; confirmed by a vote of 14 yeas, 10 nays. Erastus W. Bush to be sealer of weights and measures, term one year, vice Lewis L. Launier; confirmed by a vote of 13 yeas, 9 nays.

Director of the Poor Moerdyk submitted the name of Albert Reithberg as clerk of his office. Referred to committee on poor.

W. W. Taylor, city attorney, submitted the name of Lawrence C. Carroll to be assistant city attorney for the term of one year. Confirmed by a vote of 16 yeas to 3 nays.

Ball Elected President.

Moved by Alderman Conger that the council proceed to the election of a president.

Alderman Turner asked for the opinion of the city attorney as to whether the council had not already elected a president.

Alderman Conger objected on the ground that the city attorney was not a member and could not speak without the consent of a majority of the council.

Alderman Turner insisted upon his right to ask for information.

Alderman Conger again offered his motion which was carried.

Alderman Conger then put in nomination Alderman A. O. Ball of the Third ward. The first ballot resulted in a vote of thirteen votes for Alderman Ball, one for Alderman Saunders and two blank.

Alderman Conger moved that Alder-

man Ball be declared elected president. Carried.

Resolved by Alderman Frost, That the property known as the settling grounds be offered for sale, and that the city clerk be instructed to advertise for bids. Laid on the table for one week.

Water Question Again.

Alderman Frost moved that the mayor be instructed to appoint a committee of three to inquire into the advisability of entering into a contract with the Cook Well company to furnish to the city 10,000,000 gallons of wholesome ground water daily. Laid on the table.

Resolved by Alderman Anderson, That the city clerk be and hereby is authorized to advertise for sealed proposals for the highest premium that will be paid for the issue of street improvement bonds to the amount of \$200,000, payable in one, two, three and four years, with accrued interest at the rate of 6 per cent, said bids to be received up to Monday, May 16, at the city clerk's office until 5 p. m. Carried.

A resolution directing the mayor to appoint two aldermen to confer with the ways and means committee with a view to fixing the salaries of city officials was adopted, and Alderman Conger and Mahoney were appointed. The council then adjourned.

BOARD OF TRADE MEETING.

Car Service Rules Will Be Investigated by a Committee.

Other than the reading of a few communications by Secretary Van Asmus little business was transacted at the meeting of the directors of the board of trade last evening. Among the communications was one from Senator McMillan, which acknowledged the receipt of the petition forwarded by the board asking for the Grand river appropriation. Communications from several chambers of commerce and boards of trade were read in reply to the request sent by the board asking their co-operation in the matter of securing postal telegraph service. The scheme was heartily endorsed. The secretary reported that he had extended an invitation to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, now holding its national convention at Atlanta, Ga., to hold its next convention in the city.

H. E. Thompson, Sherwood Hall and W. W. Chalmers were elected members of the board.

Directors Sligh, Stowe and Rowe were appointed a special committee to make inquiry as to complaints of shippers in relation to car service rules. Shippers who have any complaints as to the rules of the Car Service association are requested to file such complaints with the secretary of the board of trade, in order that the committee appointed may take such matters into consideration and present them to the proper railway offices.

ROOSTERS IN COURT.

Two Game Chickens Interrupt a Detroit Judge in His Charge to a Jury.

Two crowing roosters destroyed the effect of Judge Chambers' charge to the jury in the recorder's court the other morning and furnished great amusement to the crowd of spectators.

The case was one of arson, and the charge of the judge proceeded in this wise:

"Gentlemen of the jury," said the judge—"Cock-a-doodle-doo," shrieked one rooster—"you have heard the evidence." "Cock-a-doodle-doo," answered the other rooster—"denial on both sides of this case as given by the different." "Cock-a-doodle-doo"—"witnesses and the arguments of the prosecutor for the people"—"Cock-a-doodle-doo"—"and the attorney for the defendant."

"You have heard of the rooster—I-I—mean the defendant—tell where he was on the night of the fire"—"Cock-a-doodle-doo."

The spectators were by this time unable to restrain their laughter, and the judge looked appealingly toward the door-tender, who closed the rear door. But this did not entirely drown the sound of the barnyard fowl, as every once in awhile the faint echo of a "cock-a-doodle-doo" would mar the solemnity of the courtroom and cause a smile to overspread the features of the urbane and dignified judge.

The cause of the roosters' presence was afterward explained when they were brought into the courtroom and introduced as evidence in another case. They were supposed to be game cocks, worth about ten dollars apiece, but one fellow's beauty was spoiled by having had all his tail feathers pulled out. The other one, known as a "blinker," had only one eye, having lost the other in a hard-fought battle.

Do Animals Think?

The query, do animals, other than men, think? has done able service in lycæums all over the world for many, many years, and yet I saw an answer to the inquiry, says a Detroit Free Press writer. A horse having a halter on his head had escaped from his stable and his owner was trying to recapture him. As horses usually do under such circumstances the horse was most tantalizing and aggravating. He would dodge, kick and run at the most inopportune moment and enjoyed the fun. Presently a dog ran barking at the horse, which stood stock still. The dog became more bold and at last snapped at the horse's heels. It isn't likely that he will repeat the experiment very soon, for he howled himself out of sight on three legs as the horse walked quietly up to his master with an air which seemed to say: "That was all I was waiting for."

Queer Friendship.

"In the village where I live," says a writer in the Spectator, "I was in the habit of visiting two poor, infirm old women, one inhabiting the single downstairs room, the other occupying the garret above her. Each kept a jealous watch as to whether I bestowed more tea or sixpences on the other and each was sure to tell me every ill trait she could hear of the other. One day the old lady, who lived upstairs, thanking me effusively for my visit, said: 'You're the only lady ever comes near me, the only friend I have. That one, pointing downwards, has heaps of friends, adorning herself, but I should be too favorably impressed by that circumstance, and there's not one of them but hates her.' I thought to myself that such a description of friendship may sometimes apply to higher circles than that of my poor old friends."

An Old Chestnut.

One of the old stories is that in the year 1819 two connoisseurs of Christian IV., of Denmark, while sailing between Norway and Sweden discovered a merman swimming about with a bunch of grass on his head. They threw out a hook and line baited with a slice of bacon, which the merman seized. Being caught, he threatened vengeance so loudly that he was thrown back into the sea.

ALL THE NEWS

IN THE

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Financial News!

State News!

Local News!

Foreign News!

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